Workshop on the performing practice of early music singers with Christina Pluhar

Sara Dodig Baučić

Christina Pluhar is a leading music artist today in performing early music. Lute player, baroque harpist, conductor, composer, and arranger Pluhar completed her classical guitar studies in her hometown of Graz (Austria). She studied flute at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague (the Netherlands) and the Scholi Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland. This versatile musician studied the baroque harp in Milan (Scuola Civica di Milano, Italy). Since 1992, she has performed with numerous baroque ensembles and orchestras in Europe, and in the same year, she moved to Paris. She has been teaching baroque harp at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague (since 1999). She founded and has worked with the celebrated L'Arpeggiata Ensemble for twenty-one years. She has won numerous awards with L'Arpeggiata, including several Echo Klassik awards (2009, 2010 and 2011), the Edison Prize (2009) and the VSCD Muziekprijs (2008). She won the Opus Klassik award with L'Arpeggiata in the "Ensemble of the Year" category (2019).

Christina Pluhar held a two-day online workshop within the International Scientific and Artistic Symposium in Split (due to Covid 19 pandemic restrictions). The workshop was performed both for singing-class students and singers wanting to learn about performance practice of 17th century. Participants could choose one of Lukačić's selected motets: *Sancta et Immaculata*, *Da pacem Domine*, *Cantate Domino*, *In lectulo meo*, *Domine puer meus*, *Responde virgo in echo*, *Ex ore infantium*, *Quam pulchra es*, *Panis Angelicus*.

The first part of the workshop was on the second day of the symposium on November 13, 2020 (in the morning). The students of the Singing Department (the Arts Academy, Split) in Split prepared a two-part motet *Sancta et Immaculata* and a four-part motet *Ex ore infantium* under the supervision of doc. art. Terezija Kusanović. In performing the first motet, Pluhar asked the students to try to sing the part by following historical practice and concentrating on the straight tone. Pluhar referred to some tools that singers can use in performing early baroque music. She also indicated the historical context in which music originated and demonstrated performing models so that the audience could have a more profound live music experience. The second part of the workshop was on the third day of the symposium, on November 14, 2020 (in the morning). The students of the Solo Voice Department together with accompanist Zoran Velić and the mixed choir Camerata Vocale Split performed the five-part motet Panis Angelicus.

Specializing in Baroque Music, Christina Pluhar offered the symposium listeners valuable information about the performance of early baroque music, experientially presenting numerous elements of modern concert performances. At the end of the workshop, Pluhar presented a video in which the L'Arpeggiatae Ensemble performed Lukačić motet *Panis Angelicus* in a completely new arrangement. Furthermore, the most successful albums of the L'Arpeggiate Ensemble are: La Tarantella, All'Improvviso, Los Impossibles, Teatro d'amore Via Crucis, Los Pájaros perdidos, Music for a While, and Händel Goes Wild. The L'Arpeggiate Ensemble, led by Christine Pluhar, performs in all main concert halls and at festivals across Europe, the US, South America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.